



# Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital

(Plastic Surgery & Jaw Injuries Centre)

EAST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX

## ANNUAL REPORT for 1942



SUPPLEMENTARY  
TO THE 54th ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended  
31st December, 1942

THE MAXILLO-FACIAL UNIT  
QUEEN VICTORIA COTTAGE HOSPITAL  
(PLASTIC SURGERY AND JAW INJURIES CENTRE)  
EAST GRINSTEAD

**Surgical Staff :**

A. H. McINDOE, Esq., M.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S.  
(Surgeon-in-Charge)

N. L. ECKHOFF, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.

Wing-Commander A. R. TILLEY, R.C.A.F., M.D., L.M.C.C.

R.A.F. Registrar : Squadron-Leader W. G. HOLDSWORTH, R.A.F., M.B., B.S.

Resident Surgeon : P. H. JAYES, Esq., M.B., B.S.

**Dental Surgeons :**

W. KELSEY FRY, Esq., M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.  
(Consultant to the Ministry of Health)

A. C. McLEOD, Esq., D.D.S. (Penn.), B.Sc. (Dent.) (Toronto)  
L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

P. RAE SHEPHERD, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

G. J. PARFITT, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

**Anaesthetists :**

J. TRUSCOTT HUNTER, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

RUSSELL DAVIES, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

Fl./Lt. N. S. PARK, R.C.A.F., M.D., L.M.C.C.

**Consulting Ophthalmist :**

FREDERICK RIDLEY, Esq., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S.

**Consulting Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon :**

W. G. SCOTT-BROWN, Esq., F.R.C.S.

**Consulting Radiologist :**

WALTER ADDEY, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E.

**Masseuses :**

MISS W. N. STEVENSON, MISS O. M. K. WILLIAMSON

Radiographer : MISS H. B. DAVIES

Photographer : MISS B. MADDOX (B.R.C.S., Sussex/2)

Matron : MISS C. H. HALL

Bursar : W. GUTHRIE KIRKHOPE, Esq.

Secretary-Superintendent : CAPTAIN W. J. BANHAM, F.H.A.



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# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAXILLO-FACIAL UNIT

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During the current year much progress has been made in the Centre, from several points of view.

A. The establishment of a teaching department, thus enabling the staff to devote a considerable amount of time to the instruction of Officers of all Services, including E.M.S., and to utilise to the best possible advantage the great wealth of clinical material now at our command. This has been reflected very obviously in the improved condition of patients coming to the Hospital from First Aid Posts and Casualty Clearing Stations, many of whom have been treated by former pupils.

B. The question of the welfare and rehabilitation of patients has engaged our attention to the point where East Grinstead is now generally looked upon as one of the leading centres in this field in the country. Some of our experiments will be detailed, inasmuch as they are of a revolutionary character and may have a far-reaching effect upon post-war hospital management.

C. The incorporation of the R.C.A.F. as an integral part of the Unit, under the control of Wing-Commander A. Ross Tilley, is an innovation of the past year. This department is growing rapidly and will, it is hoped, have its own ward as soon as the building difficulty is overcome.

D. The acquisition of additional land for recreational and garden purposes gives us further opportunity to expand our activities. Pea-nut land, bought by the amazing work of the East Grinstead Branch of the Pea-nut Club, is now used as a football and cricket field and is invaluable as a means of keeping patients fit. The woodland site behind the Hospital has been acquired through the generosity of Mr. A. R. Wagg, and is being laid out as a garden site which will greatly enhance the amenities of the Hospital.

Owing to the Government ban on building, and the difficulty of obtaining equipment, it has been impossible to extend our sorely taxed accommodation, or to make provision, as we had hoped, for a new Children's Ward and new Theatres. For this reason, the volume of work remains at about the same level as last year, the limiting factor being purely the number of beds at our command. We have endeavoured to maintain the same high standard of efficiency and to improve working conditions as far as it has been possible to do so. It is a pleasure to record that the same strong team spirit which exists among the staff and the happy relationship between the administrative and professional departments makes this an easy matter.

## THE WARDS.

WARD I.	SISTER HARRINGTON.
WARD II.	SISTER KENNETT.
WARD III.	SISTER MEALLY.

During the year 1218 cases have been admitted to the Wards and a very rapid turnover has been achieved by transferring all convalescent patients to the Annexe, so leaving the Hospital beds free for active surgical cases.

The equipment of the Wards has been supplemented and improved and first-class facilities are now available for dressings. Instrument sterilisers have been installed, in addition to the bowl sterilisers previously provided, and the steam is extracted from the dressing rooms by electric fans, with considerable improvement in the working conditions. The nurses have received special instruction in dressing technique and prevention of cross-infection. The latter problem would be much simplified by a slight increase in the present bed capacity of the Hospital, as effective isolation is impossible under existing circumstances.

The patients referred to the Unit for treatment have presented many different types of injury. Jaw fractures, explosive wounds, multiple scars of the face, leg wounds with skin loss are frequently seen and, as in previous years, a considerable number of severe burns have been treated. The Saline Bath is used for extensive burns and continues to give excellent results. Patients who have been grossly disfigured may require numerous operations to correct their deformities, but it is encouraging to find that a high percentage of these desperate cases eventually return to active service.

A follow-up scheme is now in operation and patients who have completed their treatment report at regular intervals, so that the results of different methods of repair can be assessed and recorded.

### **THE ANNEXE.**

This remains under Matron Stroud and is practically always full. Efforts are constantly made to improve conditions here and to render the patients' stay pleasant. With the co-operation of C.E.M.A. a number of pictures from the National Gallery have been lent to brighten the Wards.

### **THE R.C.A.F.**

Through the co-operation of the Emergency Medical Service, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force, the forming of a R.C.A.F. Plastic Surgery and Jaw Injuries Unit was begun in January, 1942. It was agreed, with the concurrence of the Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital Authorities, that the Hospital at East Grinstead was the ideal location for the training and use of such a Unit.

The personnel consists at present of a surgeon, anaesthetist and three nursing sisters, who are being trained to hold key positions in any future expansion.

Agreements have been made with the E.M.S. and the R.A.F. that all R.C.A.F. casualties requiring plastic surgery or jaw injury treatment will be transferred here at the earliest possible moment. In 1942 there were 38 new R.C.A.F. cases admitted. With the rapidly increasing numbers of the R.C.A.F. in Great Britain there is to be expected a sharp increase in the number of R.C.A.F. patients.

There has been a most cordial and wholehearted co-operation between the Hospital Authorities and the members of the Unit. It is hoped that an even larger proportion of R.C.A.F. casualties requiring plastic surgery and jaw injury treatment will be accommodated at the Hospital.

### **THE THEATRES.**

The work of the operating theatres has been at a slightly lower tempo than in preceding years. This is due to the falling-off of Air-raid casualties and the smaller number of battle casualties. Recently, however, returning casualties from the Middle East have increased considerably. In consequence the staff have been more engaged with long-stage repairs, often requiring a good deal of time, rather than with the more urgent operations of war casualties. Thus, we find, that 954 operations have been performed by the plastic surgeons and 127 by the dental surgeons. No less than 22 different surgeons have taken part in the work. We have been fortunate in retaining most of our efficient theatre staff, headed by Sister Walker and Sister Mullins. During the year the staff was augmented by two Canadian nursing sisters, Sister Oakes, R.R.C., and Sister Loyst. We have lost to the Services : Sister W. Harrington, with the 3rd Maxillo Facial Unit, and Sister J. Mudge, with the 4th Unit. It is very gratifying that two of our Sisters have been selected to help in the formation of these two Units.

Many visitors in the course of the year have visited the theatres.

It must not be forgotten that the structural arrangements are far from ideal. The Children's Ward is still being used as an emergency theatre, in



which the greatest part of the work of the Unit is being done, with two operating tables in one room and no suitable anaesthetic or ante-rooms available.

As in previous years Mobile Surgical Teams have been sent out mostly to South-coast towns following Air-raids.

### **DENTAL DEPARTMENT.**

One hundred and forty two serious fractures of the jaw were treated in addition to the dental treatment of patients undergoing plastic restoration. The department remains the same in personnel as in previous years, but its work has been greatly facilitated by the new photographic quarters in the lecture hut. In addition to the routine work of the Hospital, a heavy programme of lectures has been maintained, and Dental Societies from many parts of the country have been entertained to review courses. A good deal of work has been expended on the making of coloured ciné films illustrating operative techniques and methods of treatment. There were many publications by members of the staff, notably "The Dental Treatment of Maxillo Facial Injuries," now generally regarded as the most authoritative guide to this subject at present in print. Many further contributions of this sort are at present in progress.

### **EDUCATIONAL.**

**A.** Continuous surgical and dental courses have been carried on throughout the year. Seven dental officers were trained in the long course. Two hundred and twenty seven dental officers, including 26 E.M.S. dental surgeons, were trained in the short course. Among these were dental surgeons from Canada, the U.S.A., and Norway.

**B.** In addition to these dental officers, 28 dental mechanics were trained in order that these officers who were returned to hospital or static units would have efficient help in the workshop.

**C.** Forty surgeons have received instructional courses in Maxillo-facial, plastic, orthopaedic and burn treatment work. The majority of these were R.A.F. Officers, and by careful planning, we now have a trained Officer attached to almost every R.A.F. Hospital. As we are now receiving patients from hospitals abroad who have been treated by former students, it is most gratifying to see that the principles elaborated here are being efficiently carried out by them.

### **ANAESTHETIC DEPARTMENT.**

During the last year there have been two changes in the staff of this department. We are pleased to welcome the arrival of Fl./Lt. N. S. Park, R.C.A.F. ; the departure of S/Ldr. W. N. Kemp, R.C.A.F., is regretted.

In the period under review 1012 general anaesthetics have been administered, with no mortality. This is the third year in succession in which we are able to record this fact. In this number of anaesthetics administered there was a single case which showed post-operative pulmonary complication ; that of a Polish pilot who developed a lung abscess. This was successfully treated at the E.M.S. Thoracic Unit, Midhurst.

In the near future we are expecting delivery of the most modern anaesthetic apparatus, which is to replace that which has given such useful service over a period of three years.

The Mobile Teams have been out a number of times, when difficult anaesthetic problems of emergency plastic surgery and jaw injuries have to be dealt with.

### **PHYSIO-THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL-THERAPY.**

Notable changes have been made in these departments. The Physio-Therapy Department, built and equipped largely through South African





OFFICERS' RECREATION HUT



INTERIOR, DENTAL LECTURE THEATRE





MEN'S RECREATION ROOM



WOMEN'S RECREATION ROOM



generosity, was formally opened by Mrs. S. F. Waterson on June 29th, 1942. Since that time it has run smoothly under the direction of Miss Stevenson. The Occupational-Therapy Department, formerly run by Miss Pick, has, however, been re-organised. Experience has shown that occupational-therapy of the ordinarily recognised type does not, from the remedial and occupational point of view, give the benefit which it is sought to obtain. Therefore, with the approval of the Ministry of Aircraft Production and the Ministry of Labour, and the notable help of Major George Reid, of the firm of Messrs. Reid & Sigrist, a new experiment in hospital life has been instituted. A fully equipped department for the production of aircraft instruments has been set up. This department is run on thoroughly up-to-date lines, equipped with the finest machinery so that precision assembly work can be undertaken. There are many features of this scheme which are still under consideration, but it is safe to say already that we have initiated a scheme which has been spontaneously successful from its inception and which promises to mark a revolutionary step in hospital life. We believe this to be the first thing of its kind in England, and much is expected from it. For those who are particularly adapted to the handicraft type of occupational therapy Mrs. Mappin and Miss Baird continue to fill the need, both inside and outside the Wards.

## **WELFARE.**

The Welfare Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. Edward Blount and Mr. Kelsey Fry, otherwise its constitution remains unaltered. It has met regularly every month, and the past year has seen the results of much of its activities. It has been sufficiently far-seeing to institute experiments in hospital welfare, to discard quickly those which bear poor fruit and to promote others of a more promising nature. Individual members have continued their excellent work. The Committee as a whole has been co-ordinated and its scope widened, so that the appointment of a full-time Hon. Secretary in Mrs. Beddington Behrens has become necessary. Her work grows more onerous every day and it is difficult to know how we could now do without her. Many of the difficulties which formerly existed have been solved by dividing the activities of the Committee into three departments, each under the control of an experienced member, with the Secretary acting as a co-ordinator. Thus, Mrs. J. A. Dewar controls the whole question of comforts to patients and arranges personality talks, Mrs. Mappin acts in a similar capacity in connection with the occupational-therapy work, and Mrs. F. H. Fraser deals with amusements and recreations. All educational matters have been taken over by Fl./Lt. Wheeler, R.A.F. Educational Officer stationed at Gatwick, and the Air Ministry have agreed to the establishment of a resident N.C.O. Welfare Officer, Fl./Sgt. Blacksell, who has already proved a great asset in this field.

## **Comforts Department.**

This is now reorganised and controlled by Mrs. Dewar and is running very smoothly. On entry into Hospital each patient receives a printed card containing the necessary information as to what comforts, recreations and amusements are available and how these may be obtained. Careful management of all donated material will thus ensure that stocks are well maintained and fairly distributed. We have to thank the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, the R.A.F. Comforts Fund, the Canadian and South African Red Cross, the Navy League, the U.S. Red Cross Society, Lady Kelmsley's *Daily Sketch* Fund, the Hon. Mrs. Leslie Gamage's Fund, Frances Day's Penny Fund, Mrs. Matthews' Kit Replacement Fund, and the British Council for generous supplies of all kinds. Mrs. Dewar's Mobile Shop remains a popular feature. Among the very numerous donations and gifts received, special thanks are due to Mrs. S. F. Waterson, of South Africa, whose unfailing interest in the Hospital has brought contributions from all parts of South Africa. We wish to put on record our great loss at her departure for South Africa, but, fortunately, her interest remains and already we have had concrete



evidence of her good work being carried on from there. Mrs. Doris Dent of Birmingham has been another heavy contributor to our funds, while Miss Rosie Newman and Mrs. Gladys Martin have also generously supported the Committee's activities.

Messrs. Zeal & Company, under the management of Miss Whitbred, have taken a great interest in our Hospital, and we owe a debt of gratitude to her and her staff for their support, which has enabled us to do so much for our patients.

### **The Officers' Recreation Room.**

Through the generosity of Mr. Ronald Colman, Miss Rosie Newman and Mr. A. R. Wagg, the re-furnishing of this room was made possible, and it is now extremely well equipped and most comfortable. Their Majesties the King and Queen have most graciously presented signed photographs of themselves for this room.

### **Personality Talks.**

Lectures are arranged during the winter months by Mrs. Dewar, and have been greatly appreciated. The following distinguished visitors gave most interesting talks, followed by open discussions :—

CAPTAIN THE HON. HAROLD BALFOUR, Under-Secretary of State  
for Air.

HON. HAROLD NICHOLSON, M.P.

HON. WILLIAM ASTOR, M.P.

COMMANDER ANTHONY KIMMINS, R.N.

MISS ROSITA FORBES.

The South-Eastern Command Brains Trust, consisting of Major Haynes, Captain Hassel, Miss Pamela Frankau and Mr. Rupert Gunnis, with Group-Captain Atcherley as guest member, gave a most amusing and entertaining afternoon.

### **Recreations and Amusements.**

Needless to say, the backbone of the diversional side of the patients' lives is the Red Cross and St. John Recreational Hut, over which Miss Spalding, aided by Miss Beale, continues to preside with outstanding success. Entertainments have been organised by Mrs. Fraser in her usual efficient manner. Concert parties have been arranged at least once a month, while every week eight men go to London for an outing. These trips are arranged by Miss Laura Scott and are greatly appreciated by the patients, and we are grateful for her indefatigable help.

Through the kindness of Mr. F. C. Maplesden and Mr. "Bill" Gardner, of the firm of Messrs. Letheby & Christopher Ltd., an unlimited number of seats is always available at both Cinemas and patients are always welcome at dances held at the Rainbow Ballroom. It would be impossible to say too much for the quiet and unassuming help which this firm has unfailingly given us since the beginning of the war.

Films are shown weekly in the Wards and we are now fortunate in having a cinema projector equipped with sound, which was presented to the Hospital by the Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown. Our films come from ENSA and the Central Film Libraries. As often as the weather permits picnic parties are arranged into Ashdown Forest. These were made possible by the gift of a 12-seater Chevrolet station waggon by the British American Ambulance Corps. Our thanks are due to Miss Holland for the untiring manner in which she has driven the various Hospital cars throughout the whole year, always ready to go out at any time, day or night. Miss Jameson, of the F.A.N.Y., has recently been seconded to us as an additional driver.



Football games were organised throughout the winter months by Sgt. Salmon, R.A.F., and the team played regular fixtures with neighbouring units. Considering the difficulties their record was exceedingly good.

#### **THE GUINEA PIG CLUB.**

This organisation, consisting of all flying personnel who have passed through the Hospital (formerly named the Maxillonians) had its second Annual Meeting at the end of the year. One hundred and thirty men from all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland attended and showed once more that the spirit which animated them through their difficult hospital period can bind them together after it is over. The C.-in-C. Fighter Command, Air-Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, K.C.B., Etc., The C.-in-C. R.C.A.F., Air-Marshal Edwards, C.B., The D.G.R.A.F.M.S., Air-Marshal Sir Harold Whittingham, K.C.B., were guests of the evening. The Club seems now to be firmly established and will do much to cement the many friendships established between patients and staff alike.

#### **MAXILLO FACIAL STAFF CLUB.**

This was organised to fill the need of a social centre for those members of the staff dealing with the E.M.S. activities. With Mrs. Hotblack's consent, the former Officers' Recreation Hut was converted into a most comfortable Club Room and with the help of the Hospital Committee considerably enlarged. In this way both professional and lay staff can meet and discuss their mutual problems.

In this report little has been said of the splendid administrative work which is carried on day by day under the direction of the Matron, Miss Hall, the Secretary-Superintendent, Capt. W. J. Banham, the Bursar, Mr. W. Guthrie Kirkhope, and their respective staffs. With so many activities under way it would be impossible to carry on without their co-operation and support. It is a pleasure to record this debt. In the same way the Board of Management, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Edward Blount, have been helpful in every possible way and have enthusiastically supported our various projects. It would be difficult to predict the future of this Hospital beyond the war years, but it may well be said that with such able direction the steady story of progress which is herein recorded will undoubtedly be maintained and possibly extended.

Changing concepts in National Health and hospital administration demand a progressive spirit and an intelligent anticipation of future requirements. It can be said that the Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital will remain in the forefront of this movement. It will be a fundamental principle that when information is required on modern developments in this field, the Hospital will be able to give help to those who seek it from its own rich experience.

ARCHIBALD H. McINDOE.







